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## STANDARD PATENT

I, Vivienne Joyce Thom, Commissioner of Patents, grant a Standard Patent with the following particulars:

**Name and Address of Patentee:**

Acres Gaming, Inc, 7115 Amigo Street, Suite 150, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119, United States Of America

**Names of Actual Inventors:** John Acres; Alec Ginsburg and David Wiebenson

**Title of Invention:** Computer network for controlling and monitoring gaming devices

**Application Number:** 48478/97

**Term of Letters Patent:** Twenty years commencing on 26 July 1995

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COMPUTER NETWORK FOR CONTROLLING AND MONITORING GAMING DEVICES
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- (71) Applicant(s)  
ACRES GAMING, INC
- (72) Inventor(s)  
JOHN ACRES; ALEC GINSBURG; DAVID WIEBENSON
- (74) Attorney or Agent  
WRAY & ASSOCIATES , PO Box 6292, Hay Street, EAST PERTH WA 6892
- (56) Prior Art Documents  
AU 71194/91  
AU 27572/84  
US 5280909
- (57) Claim

1. A method of operating gaming devices interconnected by a computer network to a host computer having a user-generated input device comprising:

associating each gaming device with a unique address code;

selecting less than all of the gaming devices interconnected by the computer network responsive to a user-effected action at the input device which identifies the selected gaming devices with the respective associated address codes;

using the network to track the amount of money played on the selected gaming devices;

allocating a predetermined percentage of the money played to a bonus pool;

(11) AU-B-48478/97  
(10) 697582

-2-

providing data establishing criteria to cause a bonus to be paid from the pool via one of said selected gaming devices upon the occurrence of a predetermined event;

storing the data in a memory connected to a controller associated with only one of the gaming devices;

transmitting data indicative of gaming device activity from the gaming device to the controller;

transmitting a pay command from the controller to the gaming device upon the occurrence of the predetermined event; and

paying money from the bonus pool via the gaming device responsive to receipt of the pay command.